

AMNDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes new Figure 5A, 5B, and 6. As a new sheet, it replaces no drawings sheet.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed November 9, 2006. Claims 1-10 were pending. Claims 1-10 are amended. Claims 1-10 remain pending in view of the above amendments.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicant's remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references. In addition, Applicant requests that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicant's understanding and discussion of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's understanding.

I. Objection to the Claims

The Office Action objects to claims 1-10 for selected claiming informalities. In response, claims 1-10 have been amended to address the concerns raised in the Office Action. As such, removal of the objection to these claims is respectfully requested.

III. Amended Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings, alleging that they fail to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. By this Response, Applicant submits new Figures 5A, 5B, and 6, which depict various features of the invention, including a conductive ribbon and reel-to-reel system, as requested in the Office Action.

Applicant submits that no new matter has been added to the application as a result of the above drawings amendments. Indeed, Applicant believes the drawings to have original support as found at least in paragraphs [030]-[032] of the originally filed application. Further, Applicant has, by this Response, amended these paragraphs to refer to Figures 5A, 5B, and 6. Accordingly,

Applicant respectfully solicits the removal of the objection to the drawings and entry of the new figures as described herein.

IV. Actions on the Merits

A. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,125,535 to Chiou *et al.* (“*Chiou*”). However, *Chiou*-- assuming *arguendo* that it qualifies as prior art -- fails to teach and each and every element of the pending claims and thus is not an anticipatory reference.

Specifically, the claimed invention is substantially different from the device taught by *Chiou*. In particular, amended independent claim 1 requires, in a method of manufacturing lead frame connectors for connecting an optical sub-assembly to a printed circuit board of an optical transceiver module, “stamping a selected configuration of conductors in a conductive ribbon,” and “passing the conductive ribbon through an insert injection molding process,” and “singulating the conductive ribbon into individual lead frame connectors” *Chiou* simply fails to disclose such a method.

Indeed, inspection of *Chiou* will reveal that its method, purported in the Office Action to anticipate claim 1, is performed on an already singulated and separated configuration of conductors, not on conductors included in a conductive ribbon, as explicitly required in claim 1. This is seen, for example, in column 3, lines 39-42, which disclose that first and second contact carrier strips 1, 2 of predetermined length are separately stamped from “raw material sheets.” See also Fig. 4. Now singulated, the method of *Chiou* is performed, wherein the singulated carrier strips are deposited in a mold (col. 4, ll. 6-9), a contact base is molded onto the carrier strips (col. 4, ll. 49-50), portions of each carrier are severed (col. 5, ll. 9-10), and the final connector is assembled (col. 5, ll. 19-30). At no point in the method disclosed in *Chiou* are the carrier strips defined as part of a conductive ribbon, as is explicitly required in independent claim 1.

Consequently, *Chiou* fails to teach or suggest each and every element of independent claim 1, and thus cannot be used to anticipate the present invention. Further, inasmuch as claims

2-10 are dependent on independent claim 1, they are also allowable for at least the reasons given above. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that each of the above claims is patentably distinct and requests that the Section 102 rejection in view of *Chiou* be withdrawn.

B. Allowable Subject Matter

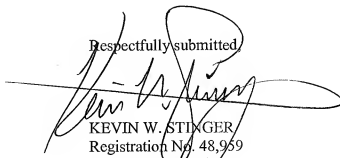
Claims 3 and 4 were objected to in the Office Action. In light of the above remarks, Applicant has chosen to leave claims 3 and 4 in dependent form, and respectfully submits that these claims are allowable. Such allowance is therefore respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes the claims as amended are in allowable form. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, or which may be overcome by an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 9th day of April, 2007.

Respectfully submitted,



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